

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING BUFFER
RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A buffer random access memory has a first portion reserved for a defect
table and a second portion reserved for data caching. A method of managing the
buffer random access memory includes determining actual memory space of the
first portion which is occupied by the defect table. This identifies unused memory
space of the first portion of the buffer random access memory. The method then
10 includes reallocating the unused memory space of the first portion of the buffer
random access memory for use in data caching. Controllers and mass storage
devices which implement the method are also provided.